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21 January 1958

Retail Prices of TV Sets in USSR

REF : Foreign Service Despatch No. 330, AmEmbassy, Moscow, 3 January 1958

1. The following statement appears on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Foreign Service Despatch referenced above:

"Television sets were already being sold below cost prices (presumably for political reasons), according to information given to a visiting American electronics delegation, and also according to Kondrashchev of the Institute of Socialist Sciences".

2. In connection with this statement, we would appreciate any further information the Department of State might be able to provide along the following lines:

- a. The identity of the American electronics delegation.
- b. The circumstances in which this information was imparted by the Soviets to the delegation.
- c. Name and date of publication or circumstances in which Kondrashchev corroborated the fact that TV sets are sold at prices below cost.
- d. Indications as to whether or not policy of selling at a loss is also applicable to radios, radio-phonographs, and wired loudspeakers.
- e. Reference numbers of any previous Embassy despatches pertinent to this inquiry.

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